

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01596 261632Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
NSC-05 SS-15 PA-01 /060 W
-----059325 262331Z /70
R 252011Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8169
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1596

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, HA
SUBJ: P.E.N. REPORT ON REPRESSED LITERARY IN 55 COUNTRIES

REF: 77 STATE 269078

1. THE P.E.N. REPORT REFERRED TO REFTEL CONTAINED THREE NAMES FOR HAITI: EMMANUEL CALIXTE; MARIE THERESE FEVAL; AND JEAN-MARIE FONY LESCOUFLAIR (AKA LESCOUFLEUR). THE LATTER TWO NAMES WERE ALREADY FAMILIAR FROM OTHER SOURCES BUT THE EMBASSY HAD NO PREVIOUS RECORD OF CALIXTE.

2. DESPITE REPEATED INQUIRIES OVER MANY MONTHS EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ELICIT CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE WITH REGARD TO THE FATE OF ANY OF THE THREE PERSONS OF CONCERN TO THE P.E.N. ORGANIZATION. THE FRAGMENTARY EVIDENCE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT ALL THREE ARE DEAD. SEVERAL SOURCES ALLEGE THAT MARIE THERESE FEVAL WAS EXECUTED. THE OTHER TWO, ONE OF WHOM DISAPPEARED IN 1958 AND THE OTHER IN 1968, ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED FROM PROLONGED IMPRISONMENT IN POOR CONDITIONS. A NEW SOURCE, RECENTLY QUERIED ABOUT THE FATE OF ALL THREE, REPORTED THAT MARIE THERESE FEVAL WAS EXECUTED SHORTLY AFTER HER ARREST (IN MARCH 1976) AND THAT LESCOUFLAIR AND CALIXTE HAD DIED (DATES UNKNOWN) AS A RESULT OF POOR PRISON CONDITIONS.

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3. STANDARD GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO EMBASSY INQUIRIES ABOUT MISSING PERSONS IS TO STATE THAT THEIR FAMILIES SHOULD USE PROCEDURES DECREED LAST NOVEMBER (77 PAP 4686, AND 77 PAP A-100) TO APPLY FOR LEGAL CERTIFICATION OF DECEASE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THESE DECREE PROCEDURES HAVE NOT YET BEEN TESTED IN COURT, IN PART BECAUSE FAMILIES STILL IN HAITI FEAR

ANTAGONIZING THE GOVERNMENT. FAMILIES OUTSIDE HAITI OFTEN DO NOT WISH TO ADMIT THEIR RELATIVES ARE DEAD, NOR DO THEY WISH TO USE A LEGAL SYSTEM CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PERSECUTION. IF P.E.N. ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO PURSUE THESE THREE CASES IT MAY WISH TO CONTACT THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND REQUEST THAT IT RAISE MATTER WITH GOH DURING COMISSION'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO HAITI.
JONES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, REPORTS, POLITICAL REPRESSION, WRITERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTA01596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780179-0339
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780420/aaaaaqdi.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 380349a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 269078
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2858805
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: P.E.N. REPORT ON REPRESSED LITERARY IN 55 COUNTRIES
TAGS: SHUM, HA, US, PEN, (CALIXTE, EMMANUEL), (FEVAL, MARIE THERESE), (LESCOUFLAIR, JEAN-MARIE FONY)
To: STATE ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/380349a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014